

What is claimed is:

1. An operating handle attachment for use with an electrical switching apparatus interface assembly including an operating handle, an actuator disposed remote from said operating handle, and a connector therebetween, said operating handle attachment comprising:

a handle-engaging segment structured to securely engage said operating handle; and

an interfacing segment structured to receive said connector, in order to link said operating handle to said actuator.

2. The operating handle attachment of claim 1 wherein said handle-engaging segment includes a member adapted to slide over said operating handle; and wherein said interfacing segment includes at least one tab disposed on said member, said at least one tab having an opening for receiving said connector.

3. The operating handle attachment of claim 2 wherein said member includes at least one handle-receiving aperture; and wherein at least one of said at least one handle-receiving aperture includes at least one projection for further securing said operating handle.

4. The operating handle attachment of claim 3 wherein said at least one handle-receiving aperture is a pair of opposing apertures; and wherein said at least one projection is a plurality of serrations disposed on one of said apertures.

5. The operating handle attachment of claim 4 wherein the other one of said apertures of said pair of opposing apertures includes a plurality of serrations.

6. The operating handle attachment of claim 2 wherein said member includes a clamping segment having opposing sides for receiving said operating handle therebetween; and wherein said handle-engaging segment further includes at least one tightening mechanism structured to compress said opposing sides against said operating handle when said at least one tightening mechanism is tightened.

7. The operating handle attachment of claim 6 wherein said at least one tightening mechanism includes a pair of spaced apart fasteners extending between said opposing sides on either side of said operating handle, in order to

compress said opposing sides against said operating handle when said fasteners are tightened.

8. The operating handle attachment of claim 6 wherein said at least one locking mechanism includes a single fastener extending between said opposing sides of said clamping segment and adjacent said operating handle, in order to compress said opposing sides against said operating handle when said single fastener is tightened.

9. The operating handle attachment of claim 6 wherein at least one of said opposing sides further includes at least one projection structured to further secure said operating handle.

10. The operating handle attachment of claim 9 wherein said at least one projection includes a plurality of serrations.

11. The operating handle attachment of claim 2 wherein said member of said handle-engaging segment is a metallic member.

12. The operating handle attachment of claim 1 wherein said handle-engaging segment includes a molded member with a handle-receiving aperture for receiving said operating handle; and wherein said interfacing segment includes an opening in said molded member for receiving said connector.

13. The operating handle attachment of claim 12 wherein said molded member includes an opening and a threaded fastener inserted through said opening in order to engage said operating handle when said threaded fastener is tightened, in order to further secure said operating handle.

14. The operating handle attachment of claim 13 wherein said threaded fastener is a set-screw.

15. An electrical switching apparatus interface assembly comprising:

a first electrical switching apparatus including a housing having an opening and an operating handle protruding from said opening;

a second switching apparatus disposed remote from said first electrical switching apparatus, in order to permit remote actuation of the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus;

a connector including a first portion linking said second switching apparatus and a second portion; and

an operating handle attachment comprising:

a handle-engaging segment securely engaging the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus; and

an interfacing segment receiving the second portion of said connector, in order to link the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus to said second switching apparatus.

16. The interface assembly of claim 15 wherein said first electrical switching apparatus is a circuit breaker having the operating handle operable between a first position and a second position; wherein the operating handle of said circuit breaker is securely engaged within said handle-engaging segment of said operating handle attachment; wherein said second switching apparatus includes an actuating handle disposed at a remote location from said circuit breaker, said actuating handle having first and second positions corresponding to the first and second positions, respectively, of said operating handle; and wherein said connector links said actuating handle to the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment, thereby permitting remote actuation of said circuit breaker from said remote location.

17. The interface assembly of claim 15 wherein the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment includes an aperture receiving said connector therein; and wherein said connector is a rod having a first end coupled to said actuating handle and a second end coupled to the aperture of the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment.

18. A power distribution system comprising:

a switchgear cabinet including an interior and an external panel;

a first electrical switching apparatus mounted within the interior of said switchgear cabinet, said first electrical switching apparatus including a housing having an opening and an operating handle protruding from said opening;

a second switching apparatus disposed on the external panel of said switchgear cabinet, said second switching apparatus being remote from said first

electrical switching apparatus, in order to permit actuation of the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus therefrom;

a connector including a first portion linking said second switching apparatus and a second portion; and

an operating handle attachment comprising:

a handle-engaging segment securely engaging the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus; and

an interfacing segment receiving the second portion of said connector, in order to link the operating handle of said first electrical switching apparatus to said second switching apparatus.

19. The power distribution system of claim 18 wherein said first electrical switching apparatus is a circuit breaker having the operating handle operable between a first position and a second position; wherein the operating handle of said circuit breaker is securely engaged within said handle-engaging segment of said operating handle attachment; wherein said second switching apparatus includes an actuating handle having first and second positions corresponding to the first and second positions, respectively, of said operating handle, said actuating handle being disposed on the external panel of said switchgear cabinet and remote from said circuit breaker; and wherein said connector links said actuating handle to the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment, thereby permitting remote actuation of said circuit breaker within the interior of said switchgear cabinet from said remote location on said external panel of said switchgear cabinet.

20. The power distribution system of claim 19 wherein the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment includes an aperture receiving said connector therein; wherein said actuating handle includes a connector tab extending through the external panel of said switchgear cabinet into said switchgear cabinet; and wherein said connector is a rod having a first end coupled to the connector tab of said actuating handle and a second end coupled to the aperture of the interfacing segment of said operating handle attachment.